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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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DATE DISTR. 30 December 1948

SUBJECT Soviet Measures to Further Tighten the Sector Blockade in Berlin

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

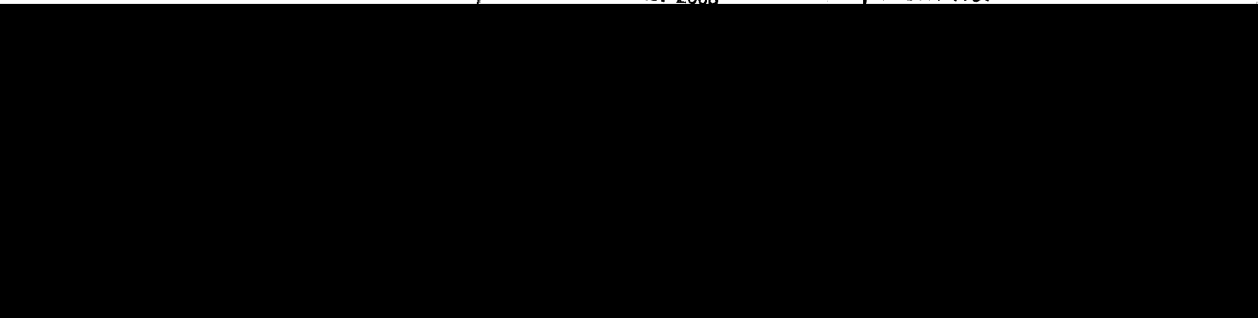
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NO. OF ENCLS. [REDACTED] (LISTED BELOW) SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. [REDACTED]



1. The head of the Kriminal Direktion of the East Berlin Police stated on 28 December 1948 that the complete sealing of Soviet Sector streets leading into the western sectors is to be carried out soon. With the exception of a few main thoroughfares, the streets will be closed with wooden barriers. Traffic through the streets remaining open will be closely checked by foot patrols. Vehicles attempting to pass from the Soviet Sector to the western sectors without a proper police permit are to be summarily confiscated. Comment: Police officials are aware that it is impossible to hermetically seal the sector boundaries. It is assumed that the Soviets want to show their strength by the control of motor traffic and add further discomforts to life in Berlin.

2. The following measures are being taken to increase sector boundary controls:
a. Paul Markgraf stated at a meeting of his staff on 10 December 1948 that the auxiliary police (Wachpolizei) would be absorbed into the uniformed police (Schutzpolizei).
b. The duties of the auxiliary police are to be taken over by civilian guards.
c. On 21 December according to the Markgraf Kriminal Direktion, the sector boundary patrols were increased by 1000 men. Police dogs were to be used.
d. According to a less reliable sub-source, 2000 Land Saxony paramilitary police garrisoned in Berlin-Friedrichshagen are to be absorbed into the Soviet Sector police on 28 December.

Comment: There are 1300 auxiliary police in the Soviet Sector. If the above figures are correct, this means that the uniformed police of the Soviet Sector have been strengthened by 3300.)

3. Increased control of U-Bahn and S-Bahn passengers at the sector boundaries began on 26 December. Police are under instructions to confiscate all packages larger than brief cases. There is no legal basis for such confiscation. Markgraf was instructed by the Central Komendatura to issue a police proclamation justifying the action. The police met with scattered resistance from outraged passengers. Railroad personnel showed passive resistance and in many cases, gave passengers warning or concealed parcels. As a result police assigned to this duty are being strengthened.

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4. The question of sector boundary passes for residents of the western sectors working in the Soviet Sector will not be settled, according to GAI instructions to the Markgraf Police Presidium, until 1 March 1949. Such persons, meanwhile, are allowed to proceed as before if they are not transporting merchandise. ~~Comment: See also~~ on Brandenburg Police measures to tighten the blockade.)

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